

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03 ABF-01

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P R 280409Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9274

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ICEM HIRE OF REFUGEE PERSONNEL

REF (A) STATE 44672, (B) BANGKOK 3925

1. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING BASED ON REFTEL A THAT ICEM IS ALREADY WORKING ON HIRING OF FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS (PCV'S) LEILA WEBSTER AND BERTHA ROMERO. WOULD APPRECIATE READING ON DATE WHEN THEY CAN BE OFFICIALLY BROUGHT ABOARD WITH ICEM.

2. IN ADDITION TO WEBSTER AND ROMERO, SEVERAL NAMES FOR THE REFUGEE SECTION SCREENING EFFORT WILL BE FORWARDED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. ICEM/BANGKOK SEES NO REASON THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS COULD NOT BE HIRED WITHIN TWO TO THREE DAYS OF TIME OF NOTIFICATION. PLEASE CONFIRM.

3. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES FILLING THE FOLLOWING REFUGEE SECTION SLOTS OUTLINED REF B WITH FORMER PCV'S: THREE KHMER SCREENING OFFICERS (ONE VICE HOFFECKER), ONE CLERK IN LAO SECTION (BANGKOK) AND PROBABLY ONE ADDITIONAL SCREENING OFFICER/CLERK TO BE BASED AT UDORN. LAO SECTION CLERK WOULD WORK PART-TIME IN KHMER SECTION WHICH IS USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO KNOW IN TERMS OF BUDGET BREAKDOWN AS BETWEEN LAO AND VICAM FUNDS. HOFFECKER WILL SPEND MOST TIME IN FUTURE ON VOLAG
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LIAISON.

4. WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH ICEM/BANGKOK THAT TRAVEL COORDINATION ROLE CAN BE FULFILLED BY AN ICEM HIRE EMPLOYEE WHO COULD BE DETAILED TO THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION IF NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, ICEM INTERESTED IN EMPLOYING ON DETAIL FROM AID OF HUGH O'NEILL PRESENTLY IN VIETNAMESE SUBSECTION OF EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION. THIS WOULD GIVE ICEM IN-HOUSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE US PROGRAM PARTICULARLY THE DETAILS OF THE PAROLE PROCESS AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF PAROLE DOCUMENTS. IT WOULD ALSO PERMIT ICEM TO BE MORE SELF-SUSTAINING AS THE TIME COMES FOR THE REFUGEE SECTION TO DRAW DOWN IN JUNE. ICEM/BANGKOK AND GENEVA ARE RECEPTIVZ. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD MEAN WE WOULD DEFINITELY REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF NGUYEN THI HUE TO REPLACE O'NEILL.

5. AT REQUEST OF ICEM/BANGKOK, WE ARE IN PROCESS OF ALSO IDENTIFYING ABOUT SIX FORMER PCV'S WHO WOULD WORK WITH ICEM ON THE TRAVEL SIDE. WITHIN ONE WEEK, HOPE TO HAVE THESE NAMES IDENTIFIED IN ADDITION TO NAMES OF FORMER PCV'S WHO WOULD WORK ON REFUGEE SCREENING IN POSITIONS DESCRIBED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. THESE NAMES WILL BE PROVIDED DIRECT TO ICEM/BANGKOK AND TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. IN REGARD TO SALARY FOR FORMER PCV'S, WE AND ICEM/BANGKOK AGREE THAT ALL SHOULD RECEIVE SAME SALARY WHETHER WORKING ON SCREENING OR EXPANDED ICEM TRAVEL ROLE. SALARY IS AT FSS-9/1 LEVEL, (\$8,896 OR \$4.28 PER HOUR). OVERTIME SHOULD BE PAYABLE AT SAME RATE AND ICEM/BANGKOK HAS REQUESTED MEDICAL AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE. WHILE TRAVZLLING EX-PCV'S WOULD BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR LODGING AND TRANSPORT COSTS, BUT NOT MEALS. REALIZE DEPARTMENT TRYING TO HOLD LINE ON OVERTIME BUT AS SALARIES FOR EX-PCV'S ARE AT CLERICAL LEVEL EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO OVERTIME JUST AS CLERICAL PERSONNEL IN REFUGEE SECTION.

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7. ICEM/BANGKOK HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABOVE TERMS OF HIRE AND IS RELAYING THEM TO ICEM/GENEVA. NEVERTHE- LESS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO GENEVA FOR ICEM.
WHITEHOUSE

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